

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
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USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE

S E C R E T BONN 06465

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (BROWN, HAROLD), MPOL, AWACS, GW, US
SUBJECT: FRG OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON AWACS

REF: BONN 06375

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE FRG DEFENSE MINISTRY ARMAMENTS
DIRECTOR HAS INDICATED THAT MINISTER APEL WILL TAKE A
POSITIVE POSITION ON AWACS WITH THE BUNDESTAG BUT THAT
THE PARLIAMENTARIANS MAY RAISE A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS.
END SUMMARY.

1. DURING A MEETING WITH THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEFENSE
MINISTRY ARMAMENTS OFFICE, MR. EBERHARD, THE POLITICAL
COUNSELOR REVIEWED THE CURRENT STATE OF OUR COLLABORA-
TION ON AWACS AND POINTED OUT THE EFFORTS THAT THE US
WAS MAKING TO ASSURE FRG PARTICIPATION (SUCH EFFORTS
INCLUDING THE DELAYS IN GERMAN FINANCING, THE SPECIAL
BENEFITS TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC, ETC.).

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2. EBERHARD SAID THAT HE APPRECIATED THOSE EFFORTS,
AS DID MINISTER APEL. HE SAID THAT APEL HAD DELIBER-
ATELY TRIED TO ARRANGE HIS AWACS PRESENTATION TO THE
BUNDESTAG IN SUCH A WAY THAT HE COULD, AFTER THAT PRE-
SENTATION, IMMEDIATELY INFORM SECRETARY BROWN OF THE
PROBLEMS THE BUNDESTAG HAD RAISED. HE SAID THAT IN HIS
APRIL 12 PRESENTATION TO THE BUNDESTAG APEL WOULD ACT

AS "HONEST BROKER" IN PRESENTING THE AWACS CASE AND GATHERING QUESTIONS THAT COULD BE PASSED TO SECRETARY BROWN. EBERHARD ADDED THAT HE EXPECTED THERE MIGHT BE BUNDESTAG QUESTIONS ON SUCH GENERAL ISSUES AS THE "TWO-WAY STREET" AND ON SUCH SPECIFICS AS AWACS' VULNERABILITY TO ECM INTERFERENCE.

3. THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR SAID HE WAS SURE SECRETARY BROWN WOULD BE INTERESTED IN A FULL AWACS DISCUSSION, BUT ADDED THAT HE HOPED MINISTER APEL WOULD NOT JUST GO TO THE BUNDESTAG AS A BROKER BETWEEN THE GERMAN PARLIAMENT AND THE US GOVERNMENT BUT WOULD ALSO EXPRESS A FAVORABLE OPINION OF THE SYSTEM.

4. EBERHARD SAID THAT APEL WOULD, IN FACT, MAKE A POSITIVE PRESENTATION, POINT TO THE MILITARY VALUE OF THE SYSTEM AND TO THE STEPS THAT HAD BEEN TAKEN TO MAKE GERMAN PARTICIPATION ADVANTAGEOUS. HE SAID THAT IT WAS HIS OWN ESTIMATE THAT THE BUNDESTAG WOULD ALSO VIEW THE SYSTEM IN A POSITIVE LIGHT, ALTHOUGH HE BELIEVED THAT SOME QUESTIONS WOULD STILL BE RAISED. STOESSEL

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